

L7 ANSWER 3 OF 29 CAPLUS COPYRIGHT 2003 ACS
AN 1974:523697 CAPLUS
DN 81:123697
TI Phenomenon of the caking of **potash**
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CS USSR
SO Trudy Instituta - Moskovskii Khimiko-Tekhnologicheskii Institut imeni D. I. Mendeleva (1973), 73, 21-3
CODEN: TMKIAT; ISSN: 0320-3220
DT Journal
LA Russian

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AB During absorption of moisture by calcined **potash**, the change of interplanar distances corresponds to the formation of the crystal hydrate K₂CO₃.1.5H₂O. The x-ray diagram of **potash** samples kept in air revealed diffraction lines indicating the formation of KHCO₃, owing to absorption of CO₂ and H₂O. When moisture is absorbed by calcined **potash**, the latter is quickly transformed into the crystal hydrate, water is bound chem., and the product preserves its free-flowing property and does not cake. This phenomenon continues until all the calcined **potash** is converted to K₂CO₃.1.5H₂O. The water further absorbed is not bound and remains in the **potash** as **hygroscopic** water. From then on, a variation in temp. and moisture of the surrounding air results in a redn. of the free-flowing properties of **potash** and it begins to cake.